

# Nursing to be upgraded to world standards: PM

More nurses to be sent abroad

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said nursing profession would be upgraded to world standards by enhancing the nurses' social dignity with proportional pay and promotion.

Announcing a big package plan for this sector of healthcare, the prime minister also said her government would send more nurses abroad with higher training.

"Our government has already started working to this end. Programmes are being taken to incorporate English, French and Arabic languages in the nursing curriculum to send skilled nurses to developed countries of Europe and America and the Middle East," she told an award giving function of nurses.

Moreover, the government has taken step to set up a Commission on General Foreign Nursing System (CGFNS) Examination Centre in the country and introduce modern nursing courses, she said.

The government has also taken measures to increase seats in the existing

nursing institutes up to 1,490 from the present number of 1,135, setting up five nursing institutes and turning 4 institutes into nursing colleges, the prime minister announced.

Besides, she disclosed the government plans to set up nursing colleges in every divisional headquarter, nursing institutes in every district and nursing college with every medical college of the country.

Sheikh Hasina said this while addressing the distribution ceremony of gold medals and citations to the 'Best Nurses' arranged by the Health Ministry at Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

Health Minister Dr AFM Ruhul Haque, Adviser to the Prime Minister Prof Dr Syed Mudasser Ali, World Health Organisation (WHO) Representative Dr Duangvadee Sungkhobol and Director, Nursing, Jahanara Begum also spoke on the occasion with Secretary of the Health Ministry Sheikh Altaf Ali in the chair.

Under the fiscal year 2007-08, 62 nurses, most of them female, were given

the gold medals and citations in the 'Best Nurse' category.

Seven nurses were also given gold medals for their outstanding results in the third-year final examination of Diploma in Nursing Course.

The prime minister expressed her concern over the less number of nurses against huge patients in the country.

The prime minister described the nursing profession as highly prospective as it can create huge employment opportunities.

To cope with the necessity of adequate number of nurses, the government has updated its policy to pave the way of setting up private nursing institutes and colleges, the prime minister said.

The community health clinics will be made operational again to ensure proper healthcare of mothers and children in the rural areas, she said.

The government wants also to eradicate all communicable diseases, ensure primary health service and provide sanitation facilities to all by 2013, she said.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Visitors throng the National Fruit Fair 2009 at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday, the last day of the fair.

## Lawmakers call for setting up research centre on climate change

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawmakers at a dialogue yesterday said an international research centre on climate change could be set up in the country to monitor and forecast the impacts of global climate change.

The utilisation of climate change funds should be monitored from time to time and the funds be released in the first quarter of the fiscal year (FY) instead of the third quarter, they said.

The national dialogue on 'Climate change and proposed budget 2009-2010' was organised by All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on MDGs, WTO, PRSP and Bangladesh Development Forum and People's Empowerment Trust (PET) at the Cirdap auditorium in the city.

Chairing the dialogue, Jatiya Sangsad Chief Whip Abdus Shahid, also chairperson of APPG, said, "Climate change has been the most pressing issue which has already gripped us and media has to play a vital role in creating awareness of the issue among people."

He said an international research centre could be established here to measure, monitor and forecast the impacts of climate change across the country.

Lawmaker Saber Hossain Chowdhury said climate change should be regarded as a separate sector. He also proposed setting up a research centre on climate change.

Regarding management of the climate change fund, he said, "Usually, the fund is released in the third quarter of an FY, it should be released on the first quarter of a fiscal and that be monitored closely."

Lawmaker Nazrul Islam Manju said, "Cautionary signal system in the country is

very weak. We cannot forecast threats earlier and evacuate people in time from the vulnerable areas which cause huge casualties."

He also stressed the need for setting up a research centre, saying that the rehabilitation programmes after a natural disaster should be more effective.

The lawmakers expressed satisfaction as the government has allocated Tk 700 crore in the proposed budget for the climate change fund

for the next FY.

Dr Kazi Maruful Islam, associate professor of public administration at Rajshahi University, presented a keynote paper at the dialogue which was also addressed by Syed Abul Maksud, columnist; Abdul Momin Talukder, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on environment and forest ministry; Mahabub Ara Begum Gini, lawmaker; and Ayesha Khanam, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.



Chief Whip Md Abdus Shahid MP speaks at a dialogue on 'Climate change and proposed budget 2009-10' at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right are Abdul Momin Talukder MP and Syed Abul Maksud and on his left is Ayesha Khanam.

PHOTO: STAR

## 'Budgetary allocations for people with disabilities not enough'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the good will of the present government for the welfare of the people with disability has been expressed through budgetary allocations in the proposed national budget for 2009-10 fiscal year, these allocations are not enough to mainstream them.

This was stated by the representatives of different organisations working with the people with disability at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) auditorium in the city yesterday.

The press conference titled 'National budget and people with disability' was organised

jointly by Action on Disability and Development (ADD), Jatiya Trinomul Protibandhi Sangstha and Protibandhi Narider Jatiya Parishad.

In a written statement they urged the government to raise the monthly allowances of poor people with disability to Tk 500 from Tk 300 by increasing their total number from 2,60,000 to 3,00,000.

They also demanded specific budgetary allocation for people with disability who are more vulnerable than others during any natural disaster.

Mentioning about the proposed maternity allowances for destitute women, the speakers demanded such

allocations for the mothers of people with disability.

They also demanded 16 seats in the Jatiya Sangsad reserved for people with disability and implementation of their 10 percent quota in senior government service including five percent quota in Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) Cadre.

Joychand Karmokar, acting deputy country director of ADD, said around 98 percent people with disability are jobless while 96 percent of them are not getting any opportunity to educate themselves.

Keeping these huge populations outside the develop-

ment programme, the Vision 2021 goal of the present government cannot be achieved, he added.

Joychand urged the government to allocate more funds creating new sectors for the real welfare of the people with disability.

Akter Hossain, president of Jatiya Trinomul Protibandhi Sangstha, Ayesha Akter, councillor of Protibandhi Narider Jatiya Parishad, and Syeda Sajeda Alam of the students forum of ADD were present at the press conference where Fazlul Azim, human rights officer of ADD, presented a keynote paper.



Bazul Azim speaks at a press conference on 'National budget: People with disabilities' at Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the city yesterday. ADD, National Grassroots Disability Organisation and National Council of Disabled Women jointly organised the press conference.

PHOTO: STAR

## Gunpowder, heroin seized, 2 held in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-3) seized gunpowder, bullets, heroin and cannabis at Khilgaon in the city yesterday and arrested two people, including a woman, in this connection.

The arrestees were identified as Rushia Begum, 45, and Kailla Mizan.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-3 raided a house at East Goran at around 8:00am and arrested the two and seized 50 grams heroin, six kilograms of cannabis, four rounds of bullets and 150 grams of gunpowder from their possession.

However, Rushia told reporters that Rab seized only the cannabis from the house and they did not possess the explosives and the bullets.

Rab sources said Rushia and Mizan had a gang of 70 armed cadres who were involved in drug trafficking, snatchings and other criminal activities in Khilgaon and Sabujbagh area.

Rab sources said she was accused in six cases while her son Hiron in 11 cases and another son Milon in 10 cases with the same police station.

Some locals at Rab-3 office at Tikatuli said Rushia was a domestic help in the area and for the last 25 years she had been involved in drug trafficking in the area.

### Attention Valued Subscribers

This is to inform all concerned that as per directive of Bangladesh Government to save daylight, local time will be advanced by one hour at 11:00 pm to 12:00 am on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

All Grameenphone subscribers are requested to adjust their clock time as per the said directive. The valued subscribers of Grameenphone shall enjoy all tariff and other services as before in accordance with the adjusted time.

> Conditions apply

grameenphone

### Contemporary Banking in Traditional Mirpur

Dhaka Bank opens its 45<sup>th</sup> Branch at Mirpur

Dhaka Bank has started its banking operation with all the facilities of contemporary banking at Mirpur. From now on, residents of Mirpur and its surrounding areas will enjoy the best banking services at their convenience. All kinds of banking facilities including different Loan Schemes, Deposit Schemes, SME Banking, Online Banking etc. will bring a positive change in your life.

Mirpur Branch

Plot-01 (1st & 2nd Floor), Road-05, Block-A

Section-10, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216

Phone: +88 02 8051560-61, 0666 2301446, 01730 351731

Fax: +88 02 8051559, E-mail: mirpur@dhakabank.com.bd

DHAKA BANK

L I M I T E D

EXCELLENCE IN BANKING

www.dhakabank.com